

Delta Science Program Brown Bag Series Presents

Environmental Flows and the Restoration of the Great Zambezi Delta of Mozambique

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Monday November 7, 2011, 12 noon – 1 p.m.
Cal EPA Building 1st Floor: Training Room 1, East & West
1001 "I" Street, Sacramento CA 95814



The Zambezi River Delta of Mozambique represents one of the last and best opportunities to restore a functioning delta in Africa. The immense size of the Zambezi Delta (18,000 km² or 6,949.8 mi²) and its unique assortment of different landforms, vegetation types, and water bodies give rise to a large diversity of species—including large mammal and water bird populations—and three critically threatened ecological regions. The Delta also provides food security for more than 300,000 people.

Over the past century large dams and flood control dikes have substantially altered the Zambezi Delta, resulting in widespread adverse changes including reduction of wildlife populations, loss of diverse floodplain grasslands and coastal mangroves, and a collapse of floodplain fisheries and agriculture. Dr. Beilfuss, in partnership with other national and international organizations, is involved in an effort to implement environmental flows and re-establish river-floodplain connectivity aimed at restoring the vast delta for people and wildlife.

In this seminar, Dr. Beilfuss will discuss how his work illustrates the potential for environmental flows to overcome conflict in shared water resources and create opportunities for cooperation.